



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 151

February Session, 2002

Substitute Senate Bill No. 318

Senate, March 26, 2002

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE PRESCRIPTION OF METHADONE BY PHYSICIANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Mental
2 Health and Addiction Services shall establish, in at least one service
3 region of the state, a demonstration program of office-based
4 methadone maintenance treatment of opioid-dependent persons by
5 physicians licensed in this state and qualified in addiction medicine
6 pursuant to the criteria and standards set under subsection (b) of this
7 section. The methadone medication may be dispensed, pursuant to a
8 medication order for the treating physician, by a pharmacy with which
9 the physician has established a written protocol in accordance with
10 subsection (b) of this section.

11 (b) The commissioner shall set criteria and standards for the
12 program, including, but not limited to: (1) Eligibility of physicians and
13 pharmacies to participate in the program; (2) relationship of

14 participating physicians with methadone maintenance clinics and
15 pharmacies; (3) patient participation in the program; and (4) dosage
16 form of the medication.

17 (c) No later than October 1, 2002, the commissioner shall apply to
18 the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
19 Administration for an exemption for office-based treatment using
20 methadone. No later than one year after the demonstration program is
21 fully operational, the commissioner shall submit a preliminary report,
22 in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the
23 effectiveness of the program to the joint standing committee of the
24 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
25 health.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	Current FY \$	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
GF - Cost	Dept of Mental Health & Addiction Services	None	200,000	200,000

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to establish an office-based methadone maintenance treatment pilot program in one region of the state. It is estimated that this treatment program will cost approximately \$200,000 annually. This would provide 17 treatment slots (at \$100 per week) as well as all administrative costs associated with operating the pilot program.

The bill further requires DMHAS to set all criteria and standards for the program and to submit a report on the program's operations to the General Assembly one year after the program is fully operational. Costs associated with these requirements are expected to be minimal and can be handled within the department's anticipated budgetary resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 318

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE
PRESCRIPTION OF METHADONE BY PHYSICIANS.***

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze special acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0